



Connecticut Restaurant Association Testimony

March 1, 2010

Raised Bill 270 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Regional Policy on the Prohibition of Certain Gifts from Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Companies to Health Care Providers

The Connecticut Restaurant Association opposes RB 270 in its current form. While we do not disagree with the goals of this bill, the unintended financial consequences on the restaurant and catering industry in Connecticut will be devastating. Restaurants and caterers in Connecticut provide lunches and dinners both on premises and in health care settings as the normal course of business. Limiting pharmaceutical and medical device companies' ability to purchase meals for health care professionals will cause a major decrease in routine business to many restaurants, resulting in a reduction of hours for employees, loss of potential new customers, and most importantly, will decrease the bottom line in an industry that operates on a very slim margin. Restaurants and caterers simply cannot afford to lose this type of business.

Often times pharmaceutical or medical device companies provide lunches and/or dinners to health care providers in the restaurant setting. In most cases, an informational presentation accompanies this meal. As currently drafted, this would be prohibited. We suggest deleting Section 3 of the bill in its entirety to continue to allow for the purchase of meals by pharmaceutical or medical device manufacturers for health care providers.

Connecticut's restaurants and caterers rely heavily on the business given to them by pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing companies, regardless of the setting. Many restaurants estimate that this type of business currently results in \$30,000 to \$50,000 in annual revenue.

The members of the Connecticut Restaurant Association would like to maintain that business and are willing to work with the Public Health Committee on changes should you decide to move this bill forward.

Thank you.